

	Type	L #	Hits	Search Text	DBs	Time Stamp
1	BRS	L1	5818	(frank or franked or franking or mail or mailing or postage) near5 (indicia or indicium or stamp or mark or marking or impression or imprint)	USPAT; US-PGPUB ; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB; USOCR	2002/06/30 17:29
2	BRS	L2	763	1 near5 (label or tape or peel or peeling or transfer or transferring or transferred)	USPAT; US-PGPUB ; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB; USOCR	2002/06/30 17:30
3	BRS	L3	316	2 near5 (print or printing or printed)	USPAT; US-PGPUB ; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB; USOCR	2002/06/30 17:39
4	BRS	L4	390	2 near5 (envelope or package or box or parcel or mail or item or piece)	USPAT; US-PGPUB ; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB; USOCR	2002/06/30 18:14
5	BRS	L5	202	3 and 4	USPAT; US-PGPUB ; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB; USOCR	2002/06/30 17:37
6	BRS	L6	77146	(plural or plurality or multiple or multi) near5 (print or printing or printed)	USPAT; US-PGPUB ; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB; USOCR	2002/06/30 17:40
7	BRS	L7	87	6 near5 1	USPAT; US-PGPUB ; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB; USOCR	2002/06/30 17:40

	Type	L #	Hits	Search Text	DBs	Time Stamp
8	BRS	L9	8	5 and 7	USPAT; US-PGPUB ; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB; USOCR	2002/06/30 17:43
9	BRS	L10	87	7 or 9 <i>Scanned Ti, Ab, Kwic all</i>	USPAT; US-PGPUB ; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB; USOCR	2002/06/30 18:08
10	BRS	L12	196087	(envelope or package or box or parcel or mail or item or piece) near5 (window or opening or glassine or film)	USPAT; US-PGPUB ; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB; USOCR	2002/06/30 18:15
11	BRS	L14	185	1 near5 (window or opening or glassine or film or hole)	USPAT; US-PGPUB ; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB; USOCR	2002/06/30 18:21
12	BRS	L15	113	14 and 12 <i>Scanned Ti, Ab, Kwic all</i>	USPAT; US-PGPUB ; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB; USOCR	2002/06/30 18:32
13	BRS	L17	240	("5717597" or "5801944" or "6208980").pn. or (@pd<=19710101 and (101/71 or 283/71 or 705/401 or 705/408).ccls.) <i>Scanned Ti all</i>	USPAT; US-PGPUB ; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB; USOCR	2002/06/30 18:40

	Document ID	Issue Date	Inventor	Current OR	Current XRef	Pages
1	JP 11249205 A	19990917	KIKUCHI, YUKIO			4
2	US 6208980 B1	20010327	Kara, Salim G.	705/408	101/71; 283/71; 380/51; 380/55; 700/235; 705/410	35
3	US 5923406 A	19990713	Brasington, Glynn M. et al.	355/40	355/27	12
4	US 5902439 A	19990511	Pike, John Alec et al.	156/252	156/267; 156/277; 156/291; 283/71; 40/630; 40/638	7
5	US 5423573 A	19950613	de Passille, Georges	283/71	283/81; 40/638	7

L10 results

	Document ID	Issue Date	Inventor	Current OR	Current XRef	Pages
1	WO 9740472 A1	19971030	GARDNER, GARY DI et al.			77
2	DE 4409386 A1	19950921	DAUMANN, RAINER DIPL ING			4
3	US 3221980 A	19651207	(see image)	229/71	101/71; 283/71; 380/51; 380/55; 700/235; 705/410	3
4	US 6208980 B1	20010327	Kara, Salim G.	705/408		35
5	US 5801944 A	19980901	Kara, Salim G.	705/401	700/231; 700/232; 700/233; 700/235; 705/408; 705/411	31

L15 results

11/9/2 (Item 2 from file: 16)

DIALOG(R)File 16:Gale Group PROMT(R) (c) 2002 The Gale Group. All rts. reserv.

06550002 Supplier Number: 55394643 (THIS IS THE FULLTEXT)

US Postal Service to Introduce PC Postage Plans Today.

Computergram International, n3720, pNA

August 9, 1999

ISSN: 0268-716X

Language: English

Record Type: Fulltext

Document Type: Newswire; Trade

Word Count: 328

1 TEXT: The US Postal Service is holding a press conference today (Monday) in  
2 Washington DC to introduce its PC Postage proposals. Postmaster General William J Henderson  
3 will preside, and E-Stamp Corp, Neopost Inc and Stamps.com are both expected to be in  
4 attendance at the event, to be held at the US Postal Service headquarters, Ben Franklin Hall. The  
5 Postal Service has been gearing up for the announcement over the last few months, holding trials  
6 in Washington and in California, and full services are expected to begin later this summer, with  
7 the initial focus on small businesses.

8 PC Postage products will "allow customers to **print digital postage** , the Information  
9 Based **Indicia**, directly onto an **envelope or label**" the Postal Service said in a statement. The  
10 move has been opposed by Pitney Bowes Inc, which has also participated in the trials, but at the  
11 same time filed patent infringement lawsuits against both E-Stamp and Stamps.com. It is,  
12 however, facing an antitrust investigation from the US Department of Justice.

13 Last week, E.Stamp filed a counterclaim against Pitney Bowes, accusing it of trying to  
14 defraud the US Patent and Trademark Office "by routinely failing to disclose to the PTO relevant  
15 information about patent applications." According to E-Stamp "because of its traditional monopoly  
16 in this field, Pitney Bowes is unprepared to deal with real competition, and is attempting to win  
17 in the courtroom what it cannot win in the marketplace."

18 Meanwhile, Pitney Bowes has settled with the US Postal Service over a 1997 suit over its  
19 Postage by Phone agreement. In 1978, the Postal Service authorized Pitney Bowes to offer a  
20 proprietary version of the Computerized Meter Resetting System, but terminated the original  
21 agreement in 1995 after revising its regulations. The courts upheld the revised regulations, but  
22 awarded Pitney Bowes \$51.75m in damages. Pitney Bowes claims the system was one of the  
23 earliest forms of e-commerce, and after 20 years now processes over \$10.2bn in US postage  
24 transactions annually.

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DIALOG 30 JUNE 2002

File 2:INSPEC 1969-2002/Jun W5 (c) 2002 Institution of Electrical Engineers  
File 9:Business & Industry(R) Jul/1994-2002/Jun 28 (c) 2002 Resp. DB Svcs.  
File 15:ABI/Inform(R) 1971-2002/Jun 29 (c) 2002 ProQuest Info&Learning  
File 16:Gale Group PROMT(R) 1990-2002/Jun 28 (c) 2002 The Gale Group  
File 20:Dialog Global Reporter 1997-2002/Jun 30 (c) 2002 The Dialog Corp.  
File 35:Dissertation Abs Online 1861-2002/May (c) 2002 ProQuest Info&Learning  
File 65:Inside Conferences 1993-2002/Jun W4 (c) 2002 BLDSC all rts. reserv.  
File 77:Conference Papers Index 1973-2002/May (c) 2002 Cambridge Sci Abs  
File 99:Wilson Appl. Sci & Tech Abs 1983-2002/May (c) 2002 The HW Wilson Co.  
File 148:Gale Group Trade & Industry DB 1976-2002/Jul 01 (c)2002 The Gale Group  
File 160:Gale Group PROMT(R) 1972-1989 (c) 1999 The Gale Group  
File 233:Internet & Personal Comp. Abs. 1981-2002/Jun (c) 2002 Info. Today Inc.  
File 256:SoftBase:Reviews,Companies&Prods. 82-2002/Jun (c)2002 Info.Sources Inc  
File 275:Gale Group Computer DB(TM) 1983-2002/Jun 28 (c) 2002 The Gale Group  
File 347:JAPIO Oct 1976-2002/Feb(Updated 020604) (c) 2002 JPO & JAPIO  
File 349:PCT FULLTEXT 1983-2002/UB=20020627,UT=20020620 (c) 2002  
WIPO/Univentio  
File 474:New York Times Abs 1969-2002/Jun 29 (c) 2002 The New York Times  
File 475:Wall Street Journal Abs 1973-2002/Jun 28 (c) 2002 The New York Times  
File 476:Financial Times Fulltext 1982-2002/Jun 29 (c) 2002 Financial Times Ltd  
File 583:Gale Group Globalbase(TM) 1986-2002/Jun 29 (c) 2002 The Gale Group  
File 610:Business Wire 1999-2002/Jun 30 (c) 2002 Business Wire.  
File 613:PR Newswire 1999-2002/Jun 30 (c) 2002 PR Newswire Association Inc  
File 621:Gale Group New Prod. Annou.(R) 1985-2002/Jun 28 (c) 2002 The Gale Group  
File 624:McGraw-Hill Publications 1985-2002/Jun 28 (c) 2002 McGraw-Hill Co. Inc  
File 634:San Jose Mercury Jun 1985-2002/Jun 29 (c) 2002 San Jose Mercury News  
File 636:Gale Group Newsletter DB(TM) 1987-2002/Jun 28 (c) 2002 The Gale Group  
File 810:Business Wire 1986-1999/Feb 28 (c) 1999 Business Wire  
File 813:PR Newswire 1987-1999/Apr 30 (c) 1999 PR Newswire Association Inc

Set	Items	Description
S1	28255	(FRANK OR FRANKED OR FRANKING OR MAIL OR MAILING OR POSTAGE) (5N) (INDICIA OR INDICIUM OR STAMP OR MARK OR MARKING OR IMPRESSION OR IMPRINT)
S2	271	S1 (5N) (LABEL OR TAPE OR PEEL OR PEELING OR TRANSFER OR TRANSFERRING OR TRANSFERRED)
S3	44	S2 (5N) (PRINT OR PRINTING OR PRINTED)
S4	80	S2 (5N) (ENVELOPE OR PACKAGE OR BOX OR PARCEL OR MAIL OR ITEM OR PIECE)
S5	21	S3 AND S4
S6	0	S5 AND S7
S7	37242	(PLURAL OR PLURALITY OR MULTIPLE OR MULTI) (5N) (PRINT OR PRINTING OR PRINTED)
S8	14	S1 (5N) S7
S9	1	S5 AND S8
S10	34	S5 OR S8 OR S9
S11	28	RD S10 (unique items) [Scanned ti,kwic all]

US-PAT-NO: 3221980  
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 3221980 A  
TITLE: OCR SCANNED DOCUMENT

----- KWIC -----

LPAR: United States Patent Office 39221@980 3,221,980 SYSTEM FOR VALIDATING MAIL BY POSTAL CERTIFICATION Dave Mercur, 164 A/Iaryal Drive, Piftsburgh, Pa. Filed Aug. 13, 1963, Ser. No. 301,708 2 Claims. (Cl. 229-71) This invention relates to new and useful improvements in a system for validating a mailing piece such as a letter, proxy or ballot, by postal certification of time of mailing and receiving and it is among the objects thereof to apply the postage direct to the letter or other contents of a mailing envelope and expose the same for cancellation through an open window in the envelope . Most business transactions are conducted by use of the mails; notably negotiations for the sale and purchase of goods and property because proof of mailing a letter creates the presumption that it was received by the addressee and the acceptance of a proposal made throu.-h the mails by a reply by mail is a legally binding contract. Another common and important use of the mails is to send out and receive voting proxies from stockholders of corporations. Proof of mailing and acceptance of proposals to establish existence of contractual relations or the authenticity of a voting proxy may be of great importance and legal significance. The present invention deals with a more or less automatic or self- certifying mailing devir-e which prima facie establishes mailing time of the original piece of mail and its return. The invention will become more apparent from a consideration of the accomapnyina drawing constituting a part hereof in which like reference characters designate like parts and in which: FIGURE I is a plan view of a piece of mail such as a letter or proxy; FIGURE 2 is a view in perspective of the mail of FIGURE I folded for insertion in an envelope; and, FIGURE 3 is a view of the mailing piece of FIGURE I folded in a different manner for returning the same in second envelope. In the drawings, the mailing piece of FIGURE I is folded to consist of three sections A, B and C by folding along the lines a and b. The section A is provided with the addressee's name, street number, city and state or other mailing designation. The body portion B is for the message and the body portion C is provided with the sender's return address and other nomenclature by way of instructions, etc. Besides the address in the area A, it is provided with a postage stamp or mailing permit desi,-nated by the numeral 10 and the area C is likewise provided with a postage stamp or mailing permit 20. There are two envelopes provided for mailing a letter or mailin- piece of FIGURE 1; an envelope 30, FIGURE 2, and an envelope 40, FIGURE 3. By folding the contents or mailing piece, as shown at the top of FIGURE 21 with the addressee's name and address exposed, as shown, and inserting it together with the envelope 40 in the envelope 30, the addressee's name and address will be exposed through the glassine window 50 and the postage stamp or perinit 10 will be exposed through the open or uncovered window 60 in the upper righthand corner of envelope 30. The sender's name and address is printed Patented Dec. 7, 1965 2 in the upper lefthand corner of the envelope 30, as showii at 70, FIGURE 2. When the envelope 30 is closed and sealed andsent through the mail, the post office will cancel out the mailing postage or mailing permit by stamping it through the open window 60, as shown by the curved lines in the upper part of FIGURE 2. When the addressee receives the mail and



opens envelope 30, he will withdraw the mailing piece of FIGURE I and open it, as shown in FIGURE 1, read its contents and if it is a 10 proxy, he will sign it. He will then return it by folding it for insertion in envelope 40 which has an open window 80 for exposing the postage or mailing permit 20 and a glassine covered window 90 through which the sender's name and address is visible. By folding the mailing 15 piece of FIGURE I in the manner shown in the upper portion of FIGURE 3 and inserting the same in envelope 40, it is ready for mailing when the flap is sealed and when received by the post office the postage or mailing permit will be cancelled, as shown by the wavy lines in 20 the upper part of FIGURE 3. The result of handling of the mailing piece with the envelopes as provided herein will produce a certification of the time of mailing the original piece by the sender to the addressee and the time of mailing by the addressee to 25 the original sender with the result that when it is received by the sender it has the postal stamp with the mailing date on two portions of the mailing piece; namely, the portion A and the portion C. In the case of using the two-envelope system of mail- 30 ing the same piece as proxies by mail, it would be impossible to slip in forged proxies because of the validation needed through the application of the cancellation stamp to the postage or mailing permit on two separate areas of the proxy; namely, the A and C areas with the signa- 35 ture appearing therebetween in the B area. It is of course evident that the method of validating mail by postal certification may be suited for balloting absentee or other votes if adopted for that purpose. Although one embodiment of the invention has been 40 herein illustrated and described, it will be evident to those skilled in the art that various modifications may be made in the details of construction without departing from the principles herein set forth. ' I claim: 45 1. The combination with a mailing piece having postage applied thereon, of a pair of envelopes each having an open window located to expose the postage for cancellation by the postal authorities, said mailing piece having the addressee's name and address in one area and the 50 s@.nder's name and address in another area to which areas separate postage is applied so that when inserted in one envelope with an open window for exposing the postage, the addressee's name and address will appear through a 55 window in the envelope and by inserting the mailing piece another way in the other envelope the sender's name and address will appear through a window of that envelope and the postage will be exposed through the open window of said envelope . 60 2. The combination with a mailing piece having postage applied thereon, of a pair of envelopes each having an open window located to expose the postage for cancellation by the postal authorities, said mailing piece

LPAR: 3,221,980 3 4 having the addressee's name and address in one area and References Cited by the Examiner the sender's name and address in another area to which UNITED STATES PATENTS areas separate postage is applied so that when inserted in 932,090 8/1909 Barber ----- 229- 71 one envelope with an open window for exposing the post- 11962,921 6/1934 Tullar ----- 229- 71 a,-e, the addressee's name and address will appear through 5 2,794,590 6/1957 Sills ----- 229- 71 a glassine window in the envelope and by inserting the mailing piece another way in the other envelope the send- GEORGE O. RALSTON, Primary Examiner. er's name and address will appear through a glassine window of that envelope and the postage will be ex- FRANKLIN T. GARRETT, JOSEPH R. LECLAIR,, posed through the open window of said envelope . 10 Examiners.

US-PAT-NO: 5423573

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5423573 A

TITLE: Composite stamp

DATE-ISSUED: June 13, 1995

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
de Passille; Georges	Hull	N/A	N/A	CAX

US-CL-CURRENT: 283/71,283/81 ,40/638

ABSTRACT: A composite stamp has two parts that are used in combination to provide the finished stamp on a piece of mail. One part bears a decorative design, and the second part bears the normal identifying postage-related information including country, denomination, etc. and also has an area on which the first part is to be adhered. Both parts have adhesive backs and may, for example, be provided in dry-peelable form on a suitable carrier substrate.

13 Claims, 6 Drawing figures

Exemplary Claim Number: 1

Number of Drawing Sheets: 3

----- KWIC -----

BSPR: Traditionally, postage stamps have been provided in the form of perforated sheets, one side of such a sheet being printed with multiple rows of impressions of the postage stamp, usually in rectangular form, individual stamps being separated by lines of perforation, and the rear side of the sheet being coated with a water-activated adhesive. In response to the demands philatelists and others for a more varied product, and also in an effort to improve marketability of the product, the postal authorities in various countries have in recent years introduced a variety of modifications which depart from the concept of the traditional postage stamp referred to above.

US-PAT-NO: 5902439

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5902439 A

TITLE: Self-adhesive stamps

DATE-ISSUED: May 11, 1999

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Pike; John Alec	N. Uxbridge	N/A	N/A	GBX
Dorricott; William James	High Wycombe	N/A	N/A	GBX

US-CL-CURRENT: 156/252,156/267 ,156/277 ,156/291 ,283/71 ,40/630 ,40/638

ABSTRACT: Self-adhesive stamps comprising: a layer (2) of stamp paper bearing a printed stamp design on its front and having perforated edges (6), a layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive (5) on the back of the stamp paper, and a peelable backing sheet (7) covering the adhesive, wherein the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer is patterned such that there is little or no adhesive adjacent to the perforated edges of the stamp paper. Preferably, the pressure-sensitive adhesive is a hot-melt adhesive, and preferably the adhesive is applied by printing. Also a method of making such stamps comprising the steps of: providing a sheet or web of stamp paper having lines of perforations defining stamps therein, followed by coating the back of the stamp paper with a patterned layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive and a peelable backing sheet. 15 Claims, 4 Drawing figures

Exemplary Claim Number: 1

Number of Drawing Sheets: 2

----- KWIC -----

BSPR: Existing self-adhesive postage stamps are manufactured from self-adhesive label stock or purpose-prepared self-adhesive stock. The self-adhesive stock consists of a sheet of coated paper bonded to a peelable backing sheet by a layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive. The backing sheet can be peeled off (or the stamp can be peeled from a backing board) to expose the pressure-sensitive adhesive, which has been applied as an all-over coating. The pressure-sensitive adhesive is normally an aqueous based polymer adhesive. The self-adhesive postage stamps are manufactured from the said adhesive stock by, first, printing a plurality of postage stamp designs on the prepared stock, followed by die cutting the coated paper (but not normally the backing sheet) along the edges of the postage stamp designs, so that individual postage stamps can be peeled off the backing. Self-adhesive postage stamps made in this way are currently available in several countries, including France, Australia and the U.S.A..

DEPR: Referring to FIG. 3, the self-adhesive stamps are made as follows. First, a web of stamp paper having its back surface entirely coated with conventional water-releasable postage stamp adhesive is printed with a plurality of stamp designs on one face and perforated in the same fashion as for the manufacture of conventional stamps. This produces a roll (9) of printed and perforated web. In alternative embodiments, the printing step can be omitted or left until a later stage in the process. The web (10) is then unwound from the roll (9) and continuously fed into a screen printer (11) that prints the pattern of hot-melt adhesive on the back face of the stamp

paper, in register with the printed stamp designs. The screen printer (11) is a hot melt screen printer available from Meltex GmbH of Luneburg, Germany or Nordson Corporation, Norcross, Atlanta, U.S.A. Following the screen printing step, a continuous web (12) of the backing sheet material is applied to the adhesive-coated surface of the stamp paper web by rollers (13). Optionally, the backing sheet is printed by a web printer (14) before being applied to the stamp paper web. The resulting sandwiched web (15) then enters a die cutting apparatus (16), in which die cuts are made through the stamp paper along some or all of the lines of perforations in the stamp paper. Where appropriate, the carcass (17) of stamp paper between spaced-apart stamps is then stripped off and wound up. The web of backing sheet material having the self-adhesive stamps thereon (18) is wound up into a coil (19) or can be sheeted at (24). The coil (19) can then undergo further processing to prepare sheets, folded sheets, wallets or other retail formats. In alternative embodiments, printing of the stamp designs on the front face of the stamps can take place at this stage.

US-PAT-NO: 5801944

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5801944 A

TITLE: System and method for printing postage indicia directly on documents

DATE-ISSUED: September 1, 1998

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Kara; Salim G.	Houston	TX	N/A	N/A

US-CL-CURRENT: 705/401,700/231 ,700/232 ,700/233 ,700/235 ,705/408 ,705/411

ABSTRACT: A system and method for printing a postage meter stamp, including a desired postage amount and a personalized postage indicia onto a label or onto a document directly. A processor based system is programmed to interact with a customer to produce individualized documents, printed address labels, and a printed postage meter stamp having in one embodiment, a customized postage indicia. The processor based system automatically calculates the postage due for a specific document, prints that postage amount as a meter stamp, interacts with the customer to generate a personalized stamp indicia, encrypts selected information into a machine readable format, and prints the information entered by the customer in a selected format, all on the document for transfer to the outside of a mailing envelope.

29 Claims, 26 Drawing figures

Exemplary Claim Number: 21

Number of Drawing Sheets: 19

----- KWIC -----

BSPR: In one embodiment, the printed postage indicia is put in a corner of the document so that after the document is placed in an envelope, the postage will show through a glassine "window" created in the envelope .

DEPR: Box 1714 prints the postage indicia on a transfer media on the letter or prints it directly on the letter for situations where the postage is going to be used in a glassine-type envelope or otherwise transferred to a user without a peel-off label, as will be discussed.

DEPR: FIG. 18 shows a letter 1800 having a body of the letter in 1803 with a postage indicia label 1801 and an address label 1802. As just discussed, postage indicia label 1801 could be removed and positioned on the outside of an envelope or the indicia could be imprinted directly on the envelope and the envelope folded such that position 1801 of letter 1800 will show through window 2001 of envelope 2000 in FIG. 20.

DEPR: Address label 1802 could be utilized in the same manner or the address label 1802 not printed at all and a viewer view the name through a glassine window such as window 2002 of envelope 2000 in FIG. 20.

DEPR: In step 923, the E-STAMP program utilizes the input/output ports of the card generating

system to send to printer/label maker 19, the correct data pertaining to the meter stamp, the postage indicia, the encrypted message, the authorized amount of postage, the return address, the addressee's address, etc. to be printed on an envelope, as illustrated in FIG. 16B, or on detachable labels attached to the back of the greeting card as illustrated in FIG. 16A. The detached labels can be removed and attached to the front of an envelope. Three labels (i.e., return address 1602, addressee's address 1606 and postage indicia 1604), would be printed on a clear film that had been "kiss cut" 1608 to allow each label to be peeled from the uncut backing.

US-PAT-NO: 5923406

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5923406 A

TITLE: Personal postage stamp vending machine

DATE-ISSUED: July 13, 1999

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Brasington; Glynn M.	Yokohama	N/A	N/A	JPX
Pintsov; Leon A.	West Hartford	CT	N/A	N/A
Shapiro; Steven J.	Monroe	CT	N/A	N/A

US-CL-CURRENT: 355/40,355/27

**ABSTRACT:** A vending machine system for printing postage stamps, the vending machine system includes an enclosed housing having a front panel with an aperture therein; a camera, mounted in the housing, for receiving through the aperture an image of at least one person and for creating an electronic image of the at least one person based on the received image of the at least one person; a printer; a payment receiving device for accepting payment and for providing a payment signal indicative that payment has been made; a computer including a memory, the computer 1) causing the camera to create the electronic image of the at least one person upon receipt of the payment signal, 2) saving the electronic image of the at least one person in the memory, and 3) utilizing the electronic image of the at least one person for controlling the printer to print a first personalized postage stamp on a recording medium, the first personalized postage stamp including predetermined data required by a postal authority and a picture of the at least one person based on the stored electronic image.

6 Claims, 9 Drawing figures

Exemplary Claim Number: 5

Number of Drawing Sheets: 6

----- KWIC -----

**DEPR:** In operation, a consumer presses a designated one of the individual buttons on keypad 17 to commence a transaction for printing a desired quantity of personalized postage stamps 2. Microcontroller 31 then displays information back to the user via display 15, such as providing a menu of personal postage stamp options or requesting which type of payment the consumer will be using to pay for the personal postage stamps to be printed. Responses to the inquiry from microcontroller 31 will be given by the consumer via the keyboard 17. Thus, for example, if the consumer wishes to pay for the personalized postage stamp 2 utilizing a conventional magnetic strip credit card 45, and such an indication is provided to the microcontroller 31, the microcontroller 31 advises the user via the display 15 to insert the credit card into the magnetic strip card reader 21. Upon insertion of the magnetic strip card 45 into the reader 21, the microprocessor 31 receives the identifying account information encoded in the magnetic strip card 45 and, via modem 37, either connects directly to a credit card data center 47 (as shown by the dotted line in FIG. 4) or alternatively communicates with the credit card data center 47 via a postage transaction data center 49. In either situation, the credit card data center 47 either verifies

that the transaction is acceptable (i.e. credit card is valid) or sends a signal back to the microprocessor 31 denying use of the credit card. In the event that use is denied microprocessor 31 will send a message on display 15 advising the user that the transaction cannot be completed. In the event however, that the credit card check is satisfactory, the microcomputer 31 then requests the user to enter via the keyboard 17 the desired postage transaction. The user can then identify that they wish to have one or a plurality of personalized postage stamps 23 printed and enter such information via the keyboard 17. The microprocessor 31 will then control the display 15 to advise the consumer to position themselves in front of the lens 11 as is conventionally done in a photo booth by providing an adjustable seat so that the individuals eyes are approximately level with the lens 11. Once positioned, the digital camera 13 will take one or a plurality of pictures of the individual and will digitize the image(s) of the individual in a bit map format and store the digital image(s) in memory 35. Microcontroller 31 will then utilize the stored images in memory 35 and display to the consumer each of the different pictures taken via the display 15. The user can then select the picture which he likes best by entering a number associated with each of the displayed pictures via the keyboard 17. Once the user has selected the picture(s) which they prefer, the microprocessor 31 takes the selected digital image from memory 35 and drives a color ink jet printer 39 to produce the desired number of individual personalized postage stamps 2 on individual labels supplied by label supply reel 41 or alternatively, on a mailpiece which has been inserted into mailpiece slot 29.



US-PAT-NO: 6208980

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6208980 B1

TITLE: System and method for printing multiple postage indicia

DATE-ISSUED: March 27, 2001

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Kara, Salim G.	Houston	TX	N/A	N/A

US-CL-CURRENT: 705/408,101/71 ,283/71 ,380/51 ,380/55 ,700/235 ,705/410

ABSTRACT: A system and method for printing an outbound and/or an associated return postage meter stamp, including a desired postage amount, onto a label or onto an outbound document and/or an associated return document. A processor based system is programmed to interact with a customer to produce individualized documents, printed address labels, and a printed postage meter stamp having in one embodiment, a customized postage indicia . The processor based system automatically calculates the postage due for each specific document, prints that postage amount as a meter stamp, interacts with the customer to generate a personalized stamp indicia, encrypts selected information into a machine readable format, and prints the information entered by the customer in a selected format, all on the document or documents for transfer to the outside of a mailing envelope.

48 Claims, 27 Drawing figures

Exemplary Claim Number: 1

Number of Drawing Sheets: 20

----- KWIC -----

TTL: System and method for printing multiple postage indicia

ABPL: A system and method for printing an outbound and/or an associated return postage meter stamp, including a desired postage amount, onto a label or onto an outbound document and/or an associated return document. A processor based system is programmed to interact with a customer to produce individualized documents, printed address labels, and a printed postage meter stamp having in one embodiment, a customized postage indicia . The processor based system automatically calculates the postage due for each specific document, prints that postage amount as a meter stamp, interacts with the customer to generate a personalized stamp indicia, encrypts selected information into a machine readable format, and prints the information entered by the customer in a selected format, all on the document or documents for transfer to the outside of a mailing envelope.

BSPR: The present invention fulfills the needs discussed above by disclosing a method and a system whereby a customer may automatically calculate the correct amounts of postage, print the correct amounts of postage, personalize selected stamp indicia, and print address labels at the same location where the customer generates a document and/or a return document, such as a customized greeting card and associated R.S.V.P. card.

BSPR: In another embodiment, either or both postage indicia are printed on a transfer sheet and physically transferred to the outside of the mailing envelope or package. This transfer sheet may be discrete from the documents, or may be a predefined transfer section of the documents having a transfer media, such as a removable pressure sensitive label, included thereon.

DEPR: FIG. 18 shows a letter 1800 having a body of the letter in 1803 with a postage indicia label 1801 and an address label 1802. As just discussed, postage indicia label 1801 could be removed and positioned on the outside of an envelope or the indicia could be imprinted directly on the document and the document folded such that position 1801 of letter 1800 will show through window 2001 of envelope 2000 in FIG. 20.

DEPR: The postage indicia labels of FIG. 21 may be utilized in any number of ways. As described above, the entire document may be folded so as to properly display outbound postage indicia label 2101 through an envelope window. Thereafter, return document portion 2113 may be separated and placed in an envelope by the recipient/respondent so as to properly display return postage indicia label 2111. Alternatively, either or both postage indicia labels may be transferred from their respective documents to a corresponding mailing container. Of course, where either or both documents do not require a mailing container, such as the case of a postcard, no manipulation of the document or postage indicia label may be needed. Moreover, although the postage indicia have been discussed with references to a label, it shall be understood that the use of a removable label portion is completely optional and the postage indicia may, in fact, be printed directly upon the document media.

DEPR: In step 923, the E-STAMP program utilizes the input/output ports of the document generating system to send to printer/label maker 19, the correct data pertaining to the meter stamp, the postage indicia, the encrypted message, the authorized amount of postage, the return address, the addressee's address, etc. to be printed on an envelope, as illustrated in FIG. 16B, or on detachable labels attached to the back of the greeting card as illustrated in FIG. 16A. The detached labels can be removed and attached to the front of an envelope. Three labels (i.e., return address 1602, addressee's address 1606 and postage indicia 1604), would be printed on a clear film that had been "kiss cut" 1608 to allow each label to be peeled from the uncut backing. Of course, where return postage is desired, additional postage may be printed to be removed and attached to a return item of mail. Likewise, a set of detachable labels, such as for return address, addressee's address, and postage indicia, may be printed for the return document in the alternative to, or in place of, those described above for the outbound document.

CLPV: means for printing within said transfer section a first postage indicia corresponding to said first document, said printing means including a general purpose printer coupled to said general purpose processor-based system; and

CLPV: peeling a label from said first document upon which postage indicia has been printed and repositioning said label on said postal item .

CLPV: folding said first document so that said transfer section cooperates with a juxtaposed section of a mailing envelope to provide for viewing of said first indicia on the outside of said envelope.

11/9/3 (Item 1 from file: 148)

DIALOG(R)File 148:Gale Group Trade & Industry DB (c)2002 The Gale Group. All rts.  
reserv.

10476791 SUPPLIER NUMBER: 21151873 (THIS IS THE FULL TEXT)

Licking stamps: a PC and a printer will end trips to the post office.

Terrell, Kenneth

U.S. News & World Report, v125, n12, p67(3)

Sept 28, 1998

ISSN: 0041-5537

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WORD COUNT: 1868

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1 ABSTRACT: E-Stamp Corp of Palo Alto, CA, has developed and is testing a system that  
2 allows people to purchase postage through the Internet and print the postage on a laser printer. The  
3 service is in the process of being tested and could revolutionize the way people send mail.

4 TEXT: Marla McCormick wasn't looking to make history; she just wanted a better way  
5 to mail letters. As administrative director for the Digital Access Corp., a small Woodbridge, Va.,  
6 software company, McCormick and her 11 co-workers had grown weary of making weekly runs  
7 to the post office to buy stamps. But because the company spends only about \$100 per month on  
8 mailing, it didn't make sense to pay an additional \$40 a month to lease a postage meter.

9 She found her solution in PC postage, an innovative new system that lets people buy  
10 postage over the Internet and print it out from any laser printer. E-Stamp Corp., a Palo Alto,  
11 Calif., start-up, developed the service and is testing it in the Washington, D.C., area and San  
12 Francisco. McCormick signed up and became the first person ever to mail a letter bearing PC  
13 postage--a postmark that looks like the static on a television. It's the first new form of postage to  
14 be approved by the U.S. Postal Service in more than 70 years. "I'm excited, but because it's good  
15 for our company, not just the Postal Service," she says.

16 As PC postage rolls out next year, its convenience could revolutionize the way small  
17 offices and home businesses throughout the country send their mail. Eventually, people may find  
18 PC postage handy for everyday use. Instead of carrying bundles of letters to the post office or  
19 leasing a postal meter, people will download postage with their desktop computer at any time of  
20 the day or night: Click instead of lick and stick.

21 Processing costs. The Postal Service set off this change in 1995 when it proposed  
22 substituting the PC and a desktop printer for the postage meter. There are more than 34.7 million  
23 home offices and 7 million small offices in the United States, but only 28 percent of these small  
24 businesses currently use postage meters for their mail. The rest use stamps, which are more costly  
25 for the Postal Service to process.

26 The new indicia, as postal meter markings are called, could help the mail move more  
27 efficiently. A multicolored stamp or the ink meter markings do little more than indicate that

postage has been paid. The PC postage indicia offer a wealth of information that is specific to each letter mailed because they come in the form of a two-dimensional bar code. The familiar bar codes on frozen foods or clothing price tags tell a store what someone is buying, how much it costs, and how many more the store has in stock. A two-dimensional bar code adds horizontal lines to the vertical stripes, making it twice as smart. With one scan, the indicia tell the post office the address of the sender and where the letter is bound, the price paid, the time and date it was printed, and even the particular piece of software it was printed with. A unique code is assigned to each piece of mail. The Postal Service can read the encrypted data to catch counterfeit postage. (The new indicia were created to reduce over \$100 million the Postal Service says it loses to fraud each year. Many postage meters in use are easy to tamper with or are stolen.) It will also be able to track each letter, much as Federal Express and other couriers can track packages.

The data carried by the indicia open the possibility that either the Postal Service or the PC postage company could track a user's mailing habits. Both the Postal Service and the private firms working with it vow not to disclose any PC postage information, except to the Postal Service when it is investigating fraud.

The rigorous security standards certainly have not deterred companies from pursuing the market opportunity. About a half-dozen companies asked to participate in the experiment, says Roy Gordon, program manager for the Postal Service's program. E-Stamp Corp., the service McCormick uses in her Virginia office, has already moved into the second of three phases of testing. French-owned Neopost starts its tests this month in Washington, D.C., with a service dubbed "PC Stamp." StampMaster of Westlake Village, Calif., is testing its service in Washington as well. Several other companies, including mailing-industry giant Pitney Bowes, will follow soon.

The three existing services are similar. Users install special software, and in some cases more hardware, onto their computer, then log onto the service's Internet Web site to buy postage. Most customers will use a credit card to pay for the postage and a service fee, likely to be less than 10 percent though it hasn't been set by the PC postage firms. To mail something, users call up the software program and fill out the address information. They click on the amount of postage needed and then click on "print." The computer's laser printer then delivers a fully addressed envelope or mailing label with an **indiciu** printed in the upper-right-hand corner.

The difference among the services is whether they require the installation and use of a hardware "vault," which plugs into one of the computer's serial ports and stores the postage value. The Postal Service requires each company selling the PC postage to have a registered device, either installed on the user's computers or on the PC postage company's computers, that accounts for the amount of money each user has available to print postage. These electronic security devices are intended to prevent users from charging more postage to their account than they have actually bought. The earlier designs from PC postage companies called for users to purchase a vault. But other PC postage companies chose to meet the requirement by using their computers, called servers, as the security device.

StampMaster was the first service to eliminate the need for the vault by storing postage on its own computers. E-Stamp recently began testing a similar hardware-free service. Neopost is testing a system that requires the vault.

The use of a vault adds expense because all postage in an office would have to be generated

71 from one computer unless the office buys vaults for multiple computers. But it also offers users  
72 more privacy. PC postage users who are concerned especially about privacy should invest in a  
73 vault system. In such a system, all mailing records are stored on the user's PC, eliminating the  
74 postal PC companies' access to that information. E-Stamp estimates a software-and-vault setup  
75 will cost around \$100 to install, while users can download StampMaster's Internet-only service  
76 free.

77 Microsoft's a player. The PC postage companies are also looking to partner with other  
78 technology companies. Microsoft and Compaq Computer Corp. have invested in E-Stamp;  
79 StampMaster expects to announce partnerships with hardware and software companies in October.  
80 So it's likely that within a few years the services will be bundled into office software or  
81 factory-installed into new computers, just as an Internet browser is now standard on most new  
82 PCs.

83 What's the drawback? Aside from fewer colorful stamps in the mail, there aren't many.  
84 Users cannot mail letters internationally, since other countries may not recognize the indicia. "If  
85 you use PC postage, you're still going to have to keep some stamps in the drawer," concedes Bill  
86 Shannon, director of Pitney Bowes's division for small and home offices.

87 The Postal Service has yet to approve Pitney Bowes's PC postage service, ClickStamp, for  
88 test marketing. No one is counting Pitney Bowes out, even though it will be late getting to market.  
89 With 1.4 million of its meters in offices and revenues totaling \$4.1 billion in 1997, the Stamford,  
90 Conn., company is a tough competitor. Last month the company announced that it holds patents  
91 on 15 metering technologies that it believes are essential to the operation of PC postage services.  
92 Pitney Bowes already has started licensing negotiations with E-Stamp and StampMaster, says  
93 David Pitchenik, the company's intellectual-property attorney. Neither Pitney Bowes nor the  
94 Postal Service expects the company's patent claims to delay or deter the national rollout of PC  
95 postage. Pitchenik notes that Pitney Bowes currently licenses its mechanical and electronic meter  
96 patents to its competitors.

97 While it waits for approval of its ClickStamp service, Pitney Bowes continues to push its  
98 Personal Post Office. For \$19.75 a month (\$24.75 with a postal scale), a customer gets a small  
99 electronic postage meter that users can refill electronically with a phone call via modem to Pitney  
100 Bowes.

101 McCormick, the first tester to use E-Stamp, says PC postage has delivered for her. In  
102 addition to cutting down on the number of trips to the post office, it has also provided a  
103 convenient way to track postage expenses. And even though as a tester her company hasn't had  
104 to pay the transaction fees for the service, McCormick says she still would consider adding the  
105 service to her home computer when national rollouts for E-Stamp and other PC postage companies  
106 are expected to start in early 1999. "There's nothing worse than sitting down at midnight to pay  
107 the bills and realizing you forgot to buy stamps," she says.

108 A click instead of a lick

109 PC postage lets people buy "stamps" over the Internet and print that postage onto letters  
110 using their own computers. The result: no more waiting in post office lines.

111 1. A person in a home or small business office can access one of the PC postage companies  
112 via the Internet 24 hours a day, sign in, and pay for postage, usually with a credit card.

113 2. The money goes to the U.S. Postal Service, but the PC postage company does the

114 accounting. The company's computer grants the user permission to print postage.

115 3. The user then addresses and prints out an envelope on a desktop computer. The postage  
116 cost is deducted from a "vault" installed on the user's PC or from an account on the company's  
117 computer.

118 4. The user can then drop the letter in a mailbox. There's no need to trek to the post office  
119 for postage-meter refills or stamps.

120 Indicia

121 One scan of this two-dimensional bar code will enable the post office to retrieve  
122 significantly more information than it can from postage meters or stamps, such as where the letter  
123 came from, where it's bound, and how much postage was paid. The information will be encrypted  
124 so only the post office or the postage company can read it.

125 Facing Identification Mark

126 Tells sorting machines that the address is facing the right way for scanning

127 Device ID Registration number for the machine that printed the postage

128 \$0.320 FIRST CLASS US POSTAGE TOWN STATE ZIP 061S0000010013

129 Sources: United States Postal Service, StampMaster Inc.

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CLIPPEDIMAGE= JP411249205A

PUB-NO: JP411249205A

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: JP 11249205 A

TITLE: PERSONAL POSTAGE STAMP PRINTING METHOD AND PRINTING SHEET  
USED FOR THIS PRINTING METHOD

PUBN-DATE: September 17, 1999

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	COUNTRY
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KIKUCHI, YUKIO	N/A
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INT-CL\_(IPC): G03B015/00; G09F003/00 ; G11B023/38

ABSTRACT:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a personal postage stamp printing method and a printing sheet used for this printing method enabling a purchaser to personally select the figure, design, photograph, and the like of postage stamps so as to be the own memorial stamps of the purchaser while being able to specify the purchaser.

SOLUTION: A printing sheet 1 comprises a separator 2 and a plurality of seals 3A for personal postage stamps removably fitted to the separator 2. The amount of money 6 and the name of an organ 7 with authority of issuance are previously printed on the seal 3A. A person who purchased the printing sheet 1 prints desirably on a plurality of seals 3A for personal postage stamps and takes the individual seals 3A off to use them as postage stamps.

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CLIPPEDIMAGE= DE004409386A1

PUB-NO: DE004409386A1

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: DE 4409386 A1

TITLE: Reusable envelope for posting letter etc.

PUBN-DATE: September 21, 1995

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME

COUNTRY

DAUMANN, RAINER DIPL ING

DE

EUR-CL (EPC): B65D027/04; B65D027/06 ABSTRACT:

The envelope (1) has an address window (3). It also has an open window (4) in the envelope, so that the postage stamp (5) is placed on the letter (2), and the franking (6) is also done through this window . The envelope itself is thus not marked and can be reused. The envelope can also have other open windows, e.g. for the address or trademark of the sender, so that the envelope itself is a totally neutral object and can be reused for any purpose whatsoever. The open windows may be round, elliptical or rectangular.